

## **TRAFFIC STATEMENT**

### **St. Marys Falls Canal, Michigan**

### **Prepared by the Soo Area Office**

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The 2002 commercial navigation season through the United States locks began on 25 March 2002 and ended 297 days later on 15 January 2003. On 19 March 2002 the United States Coast ICEBREAKER MACKINAW passed upbound through the Poe Lock. The first commercial vessel for the season was the M/V INDIANA HARBOR on 25 March 2002 down bound for Muskegon, Michigan. The Poe Lock remained in service until 12:00 P.M. on 15 January 2003. The last commercial vessel, the TUG RELLIANCE and BARGE PML 9000, passed through the Poe Lock on 15 January 2003 down bound for Sault Ste. Marie. Ontario.

Delays are defined as the elapsed time a vessel spends waiting to proceed with a lockage. Twelve vessels were reported as being delayed by ice for a total of 9 hours and 49 minutes. Tow Malfunctions/Breakdown contributed 49 minutes and lock hardware malfunctions accounted for 2 hours 44 minutes. Lock maintenance and testing totaled 20 hours and 32 minutes. All other delays amounted to 24 hours 46 minutes. The St. Marys River was reported as being closed by the United States Coast Guard for a total of 4 days 3 hours 29 minutes.

The largest cargo recorded for a single passage in the 2002 season was 67,847 net tons of iron ore, carried by the M/V OGLEBAY NORTON on 13 August 2002. The greatest total seasonal cargo transported by an individual vessel was 2,876,399 net tons carried by the M/V GEORGE A. STINSON

Cargo flow was greatest during the month of August with 9,996,958 net tons passing through the locks. A total of 4,543 cargo carriers passed through the locks during the 2002 season, an increase of 234 from the 2001 season. An annual total of 82,044,087 net tons of freight were recorded. This was 5,656,926 tons above the 2001 total. Total vessel passages decreased from 8,731 in 2001 to 8,680 in 2002. Freight increased by 7.41 percent and total passages decreased by 0.58 percent.

Comparing the movement of cargo in and out of Lake Superior, eleven commodities experienced decreases from 2001 volumes ranging from 5.04 percent (Wheat) to 100.00 percent (Sunflower seeds). Eight commodities increased in volume ranging from 4.07 percent (Coal) to 487.94 percent (Scrap Iron). The greatest single gain in cargo tonnage was 6,466,376 net tons of Iron Ore while the most significant decrease was 458,417 net tons of Stone.

The periods of operation and total passages of all craft for each lock during the 2002 season are as follows:

Lock	Traffic Opening Day	Closing Day	Number of Days in operation	Total Passages
MacArthur	April 7	December 26	262	4,505
Poe	March 25	January 15	297	4,128
Davis *	N/A	N/A	0	47
Sabin **	N/A	N/A	0	0

Note: \* Used occasionally  
 \*\* Decommissioned and Not Used

The following tabulation shows the number of cargo vessel passages recorded for the past ten navigational seasons through the American canal:

Year	No. Passages	Year	No. Passages
1993	4,320	1998	4,648
1994	4,485	1999	4,595
1995	4,446	2000	4,845
1996	4,439	2001	4,309
1997	4,836	2002	4,543

The following is a comparative monthly statement of freight tonnage moved through the St. Marys Falls Canal for the past two seasons:

Month	2001 Net Tons	2002 Net Tons	Increase/ Decrease
March	1,147,982	1,020,504	-127,478
April	8,134,813	7,137,947	-996,866
May	8,994,529	9,148,280	153,751
June	8,893,689	8,948,526	54,837
July	9,037,884	9,892,229	854,345
August	8,623,956	9,996,958	1,373,002
September	7,896,868	8,729,343	832,475
October	8,125,610	8,888,950	763,340
November	7,507,747	8,286,988	779,241
December	6,691,660	7,744,664	1,053,004
January 2003	1,332,423	2,249,698	917,275
Total	76,387,161	82,044,087	5,656,926

STATISTICAL REPORT OF LAKE COMMERCE  
PASSING THROUGH THE CANAL AT  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
For the Season of 2002

Item	Westbound	Eastbound	Total Net Tons	Previous 3 Seasons Average
<u>Wood Products</u>	45,547	160,965	206,512	176,631
<u>Vegetable Products</u>				
Wheat	0	7,238,580	7,238,580	7,730,964
Barley	0	151,843	151,843	112,806
Oats	20,886	2,526	23,412	225,690
Corn	11,905	65,097	77,002	886,766
Rye	0	0	0	0
Flaxseed	0	727,492	727,492	506,997
Soy	6,366	1,200,435	1,206,801	2,016,184
Sunflower Seed	0	0	0	50,479
Mill Products, Screening	0	469,695	469,695	722,577
<u>Mineral Products</u>				
Iron Ore	143,105	45,098,196	45,241,301	43,451,789
Mfd Iron and Steel	366,362	163,265	529,627	192,072
Scrap Iron	90,687	57,256	147,943	74,774
*Stone	3,727,320	136,467	3,863,787	4,721,737
Cement	455,058	2,238	457,296	530,279
Coal	2,415,517	17,316,647	19,732,164	18,144,733
Potash	0	588,495	588,495	601,765
Salt	430,538	0	430,538	450,507
<u>Petroleum Products</u>				
Gasoline	64,815	0	64,815	72,044
Fuel Oil	126,696	0	126,696	121,164
Miscellaneous Merchandise	174,965	585,123	760,088	779,803
<b>**Vessel Passages Number</b>	<b>4,977</b>	<b>3,703</b>	<b>8,680</b>	<b>9,005</b>
Lockage Number	4,063	3,139	7,202	7,416
Passengers Number	90,442	22,154	112,596	121,448
Freight Short Tons	8,079,767	73,964,320	82,044,087	81,569,761

?? \* Includes broken stone, gravel and sand

?? \*\* Includes four Government vessels prior to 25 March 2002

**COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL STATEMENT OF LAKE COMMERCE  
PASSING THROUGH THE CANAL AT  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
For the Seasons of 2001 and 2002**

Item	Season 2001	Season 2002	Amount of Increase Decrease	Percent Increase/ Decrease
Vessel Passages	8,731	8,680	-51	-0.58%
Cargo Carriers	4,309	4,543	234	5.43%
NonCargo Carriers	4,422	4,137	-285	-6.45%
Lockages	7,165	7,202	37	0.52%
Total Passengers	111,361	112,596	1,235	1.11%
Freight Short Tons	76,387,161	82,044,087	5,656,926	7.41%
Wood Products	165,464	206,512	41,048	24.81%
Vegetable Products				
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Wheat	7,622,861	7,238,580	-384,281	-5.04%
Barley	63,769	151,843	88,074	138.11%
Oats	209,756	23,412	-186,344	-88.84%
Corn	387,507	77,002	-310,505	-80.13%
Rye	0	0	0	N/A
Flaxseed	639,845	727,492	87,647	13.70%
Soy	1,586,535	1,206,801	-379,734	-23.93%
Sunflower Seed	47,843	0	-47,843	-100.00%
Mill Products, Screenings	662,369	469,695	-192,674	-29.09%
Mineral Products				
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Iron Ore	38,776,957	45,241,301	6,464,344	16.67%
Mfd Iron and Steel	165,176	529,627	364,451	220.64%
Scrap Iron	25,163	147,943	122,780	487.94%
*Stone	4,322,204	3,863,787	-458,417	-10.61%
Cement	524,009	457,296	-66,713	-12.73%
Coal	18,961,219	19,732,164	770,945	4.07%
Potash	549,963	588,495	38,532	7.01%
Salt	583,859	430,538	-153,321	-26.26%
Petroleum Products				
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Gasoline	105,565	64,815	-40,750	-38.60%
Fuel Oil	164,869	126,696	-38,173	-23.15%
Miscellaneous Merchandise	822,228	760,088	-62,140	-7.56%
Total Freight	76,387,161	82,044,087	5,656,926	7.41%

\* Includes broken stone, gravel and sand  
The United States Canal was opened 25 March 2002 and closed  
15 January 2003. (A season of 297 days)

**STATISTICAL TABLE OF FREIGHT TONNAGE  
PASSING THROUGH THE CANAL BY LOCK AND DIRECTION AT  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
For the Season of 2002**

Month	MacArthur	Poe	Davis	West Bound	East Bound	Total
MARCH	0	1,020,504	0	38,219	982,285	1,020,504
APRIL	1,115,438	6,022,509	0	628,641	6,509,306	7,137,947
MAY	2,061,913	7,086,367	0	1,091,081	8,057,199	9,148,280
JUNE	1,975,020	6,973,506	0	1,049,796	7,898,730	8,948,526
JULY	2,190,105	7,702,124	0	906,298	8,985,931	9,892,229
AUGUST	2,427,671	7,562,997	6,290	1,071,842	8,925,116	9,996,958
SEPTEMBER	1,751,712	6,977,631	0	934,284	7,795,059	8,729,343
OCTOBER	2,172,904	6,716,046	0	1,091,443	7,797,507	8,888,950
NOVEMBER	1,866,147	6,420,841	0	756,511	7,530,477	8,286,988
DECEMBER	1,507,560	6,237,104	0	385,445	7,359,219	7,744,664
JANUARY 2003	0	2,249,698	0	126,207	2,123,491	2,249,698
TOTALS	17,068,470	64,969,327	6,290	8,079,767	73,964,320	82,044,087

**STATISTICAL TABLES OF FREIGHT TONNAGE AND PASSAGES  
PASSING THROUGH THE CANAL BY LOCK AND FLAG AT  
SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN  
For the Season of 2002**

Net Tonnage					Passages			
Vessel Flag	MacArthur Lock	Poe Lock	Davis Lock	Total Net Tons	MacArthur Lock	Poe Lock	Davis Lock	Total Passages
American	4,178,477	55,281,557	0	59,460,034	1,931	2,771	15	4,717
Canadian	9,965,475	7,222,099	6,290	17,193,864	1,510	836	9	2,355
Foreign	2,928,955	2,461,234	0	5,390,189	373	180	0	553
Government	0	0	0	0	685	319	23	1,027
All Other	0	0	0	0	6	22	0	28
Totals	17,072,907	64,964,890	6,290	82,044,087	4,505	4,128	47	8,680

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